X-bar stipulates that all types of phrases have the same properties: head , specifier , complement , and adjunct.

-> cross-catgorial generalization

Head-> mandatory

Specifier? , complements , and adjuncts are optional.

Consider:

Ali hates cinema.

*Ali hates.

Omar smiled.

*Omar smiled the book.

Omar gave Ali a book.

*Omar gave Ali.

*Omar gave a book.

The highlighted sentences should be well-formed , according to X-bar , as complements (objects) are optional.

Certain verbs require objects, and others don't.

Mental Dictionary / LEXICON

Predicate : the relation between the items of the sentence and between them and the world.

The participants involved in the relations : Arguments.

Ali ate the apple.

2 arguments and a predicate. Arguments : 'Ali' and 'the apple'.

Predicate : 'ate'

ARGUMENT STRUCTURE

'Eat' is a two- argument predicate.

'Smile' is a one-argument predicate.

'Give' is a three-argument predicate.

Arguments are either external or internal.

Thematic Relations